

**Town of Londonderry, Vermont
Village Wastewater Committee
Meeting Minutes
Friday, June 2, 2023 – 9:00 AM
Neighborhood Connections, 5700 VT Rte. 100
Londonderry, VT**

Village Wastewater Committee (VWC) Members Present: Sharon Crossman, Gary Hedman, Larry Gubb.

Others in Attendance:

In Person:, Chrissy Haskins (Dufresne Group – Project Engineers), Susan Westa (Windham Regional Commission). Tom Metcalfe (Resident), Stephen Bergleitner (Parks Board/Resident), .

Online: None

1. Call meeting to order

The meeting was called to order at 9:02 AM

2. Additions or deletions to the agenda:

Discussion of Gail Mann rejoining the VWC under new business.

3. Elect Committee Chair

Gary and Larry discussed their inability to take on the chair of the Committee due to commitments that would not allow them to give the position the time and attention that it needs. Sharon said she would be willing to be interim chair until such time another could take over. She also cited her own numerous commitments and spoke of the value of Gail Mann being able to help guide in the transition from her leadership to a new chair. A motion was made to elect Sharon interim Chair, seconded, with the majority voting in the affirmative.

As an adjunct to this discussion, Tom Metcalfe expressed an interest in joining the Committee, but not as a new chair, since he would be very new to the Committee if accepted and would not be in the position to take on the chair position. He spoke to his engineering background and experience in large wastewater systems and the importance of this project to Londonderry in the interest of meeting the variety of challenges facing both villages with regard to business properties, residential properties and affordable housing in close proximity to village centers. Gary spoke of how valuable Tom's experience would be to the Committee and all agreed he would be a valuable addition to the Committee. The

Committee voted to recommend Tom as an additional member of the Committee to the Selectboard for approval.

4. Approval of Minutes:

Sharon made a motion to approve the May 23, 2023 meeting minutes, as written. Gary seconded, all agreed.

5. WW Site Selection/Evaluation Plan Updates and Next Steps:

South Village:

Chrissy said that there were no updates on the South Village, pending testing yet to be completed and due to the last updates being reported at the fairly recent last meeting.

Tom Metcalfe asked about some of the private properties and Chrissy said that currently the discussion on those properties with property owners are still private and could not be disclosed to protect their privacy and discussions with them regarding their interest. She did say that some properties are ready for test pits and that for some sites, shovel testing is allowable for archeological review. The Custer-Sharp Town property has gotten the archeological review go ahead for test pits.

Chrissy explained the process of the required archeological review prior to permission to dig test pits, where grant funding is to be used to pay for the test pits. The test pits will show the soil profile, ground water and ultimately what the capacity of the soil is so the capacity of potential systems can be estimated and economic formulas applied for viability of a site.

Tom Metcalfe asked if the sites are mostly open, forested or of some other characteristic. Chrissy responded that most sites we have looked at have been forested.

Sharon noted that we have had some positive responses from some property owners which is very encouraging. Gary spoke to the importance of making land or easement purchases by the end of the 2023 calendar year.

Chrissy said that one known interested party is interested in an easement, not a property purchase. She has one property owner yet to meet with in the South Village. She said there is one property that remains to be responded to from the Committee and her and the Town owned “Prouty” property is being evaluated as a potential site. It was not initially looked at because of distance from the village center, but because there appear to be no sites yet known that are close in proximity to the South Village, the search has gone further afield and now that property is being considered as a potential site. Engineering studies done in the past have shown that piping to this property from the north village would likely be cost prohibitive based on the proliferation of ledge rock. It is believed from preliminary observance that there is little or no ledge from this site to the south village.

Sharon asked if the Town had been contacted about moving forward on the “Prouty” property. Chrissy said she has been in contact.

North Village:

Chrissy asked about the status of Pingree Park and mentioned that the “Prouty” property could be a collocation with a nearby property that would reduce the amount of piping.

Sharon spoke about test pits at Pingree Park and gave some background on what had been done to date with the auger testing done during the winter, which do not provide enough or conclusive information about soils and potential capacity. Mapping of test pit locations has been done and available for the Parks Board and the Selectboard (SB) to review. She said she was unclear about any decisions by the SB to go ahead with test pits as the chair of the SB had asked about the status of Pingree Park in the last meeting. Without test pits being done, there is no way to have the complete information on what the capacity of any potential systems would be and thus how that capacity would fit the economics. If there is not enough capacity found for the type and cost of the potential systems that the soils would allow, there would be no need for further discussion about whether any systems should be sited there. If there is good capacity and economics, then there could be further discussion about whether to put any systems there.

Stephen Bergleitner spoke to the Parks Board desire to not have any systems located at Pingree Park, but that they did not want to make that decision on their own. Ultimately the decision is up to the Selectboard.

He mentioned that the FBAA (Flood Brook Athletic Association) is using the fields at Pingree Park through the 19th of June and requested that if any test pits are allowed by the SB to be done, that they be done after June 19th. He presented his personal thought and stated he was not speaking for the Parks Board, that he was interested in generally seeing the wastewater project happen, for all the reasons it is being undertaken.

Gary reiterated why the VWC has proceeded as they have as there appeared to be an impasse in being able to have an informed discussion without all the information test pits would provide and repeated that ultimately, the decision is up to the SB.

Tom Metcalfe asked if there was any alternative to doing test pits and Chrissy replied that there was not and that the advantage to Town owned properties was that no purchase of property and the time and cost involved in purchasing a property. Larry mentioned that if test pits were allowed, time would still be needed to do the requisite archeological review. Chrissy said that were test pits be allowed at Pingree Park we would have to check to see if shovel testing could be done there, for archeological review.

Sharon repeated that it is the Selectboard’s decision to make and the Committee agreed to forward test pit information to the Selectboard. Larry made a motion to forward test pit map and test pit information from Dufresne Group to the Selectboard for consideration of allowing test pits to move forward, inclusive of the required archaeological review for the

purpose of establishing the nature of any viability of Pingree Park for a community wastewater system and finalizing a decision regarding the use of the Park, once the test pit information is complete and conclusive. Gary seconded, motion passed.

Tom Metcalfe spoke to the importance of Pingree Park based on all of the information he had regarding its proximity to the village, no requirement for purchase and collocation with playing fields demonstrated at other locations in the State.

Chrissy explained how a potential “Drip Dispersal” system at the Park could further alleviate any hesitations as they allow systems to be wound in and around any facilities that are existing or planned.

Stephen said that the Parks Board was hoping to build a pickle ball court at the Park one day, but that no real master plan for the Park had been done. He said that engineer Jeremy Brodny had done a site study.

6. Public Outreach and Prioritization of Deliverables

Sue Westa reminded the VWC of the upcoming Wastewater Open House planned for Saturday June 10, 2023 at the Town Offices between 8:30 and 10:00AM. She thought if the Committee arrived at the Town Offices at 8:00 AM, that should be sufficient time for setting up. There was discussion of possibly doing a small 5-10 minute presentation at about 8:45AM, but that the flow of the event might dictate the necessity, thinking that with Chrissy, the VWC and Sue Present and with the poster boards, if the crowd is not large, most questions could be listened to and answered without a presentation. Coffee and doughnuts will be served.

7. Update

Sharon asked about updates on water testing, test kits and restarting the testing. Chrissy responded that the State said we can use the test kits and they wanted to know how many have been used and how many are left.

Gary said we might be able to mention the water testing at the Open House

Chrissy has a list of those who requested testing who still need to have their water tested and suggested the testing be focused on the village centers and where most needed. Sharon will work with Chrissy and Rich Phelan to restart the water testing.

8. New Business and Considerations

Sharon said that Gail had expressed an interest in continuing to work with the Committee to help with the transition and in the background as an ad hoc member to help with project communications and coordination with property owners, recognizing she has a lot of

background and knowledge that would be valuable and the Committee can use all the help available based on timelines to be met to retain the grant funds.

The Committee agreed and Larry made the following motion:

Motion to recommend to the Selectboard that Gail Mann be permitted to assist the Village Wastewater Committee and the Committee Chair wherever needed on an ad hoc basis, where she would have no power to vote or to make decisions, but would aid in continuity for the Committee based on her experience as a former Chair, and aid with transition to a new Chairperson.

Gary seconded. Motion passed.

9. Adjourn:

Sharon moved to adjourn. Gary Seconded

All approved to adjourn and the meeting was adjourned at 10:32 AM

The next regular meetings of the VWC will be **the first Friday of every month at 9:00 AM** and **the third Tuesday of every month at 6:00 PM**

Respectfully Submitted,
Larry Gubb
Secretary, Village Wastewater Committee

Approved _____.

Village Wastewater Committee
Sharon Crossman, Interim Chair

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